

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,438,582) (hereinafter "Hoshino").

Claims 3-8, 11 and 12, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

In light of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have added the allowable features of claim 3 to independent claim 1. Also similar features as in claim 3 have been added to independent claim 9. Accordingly, claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also, Applicants have rewritten claims 4, 7, 11 and 12 in independent form in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 remain pending for consideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshino. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 3-8, 11 and 12, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected case claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In light of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have added the allowable features of claim 3 to independent claim 1. Also similar features as in claim 3

have been added to independent claim 9. Accordingly, claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also, Applicants have rewritten claims 4, 7, 11 and 12 in independent form in light of the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter.

As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that each of newly-amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11 and 12 are in prima-facie condition for allowance. In addition, the dependent claims 2, 5-6, 8 and 10 are in condition for allowance at least because of their dependence from independent claims 1, 4, 7 or 9 and the reasons set forth previously.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including

any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

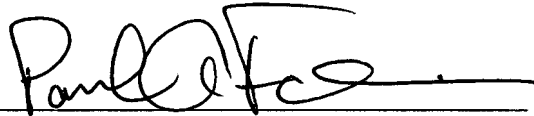
This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Dated: June 8, 2007

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Fournier", written over a horizontal line.

Paul A. Fournier

Reg. No. 41,023

Customer No. 055694
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-1209
Tel.: (202) 842-8800
Fax: (202) 842-8465